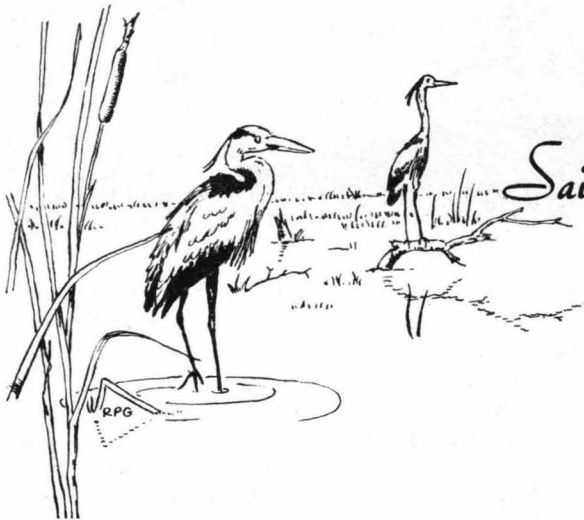




## Saint Louis Audubon Bulletin

Volume 39 Number 4

March 1973

### A VERY UN-SILENT SPRING

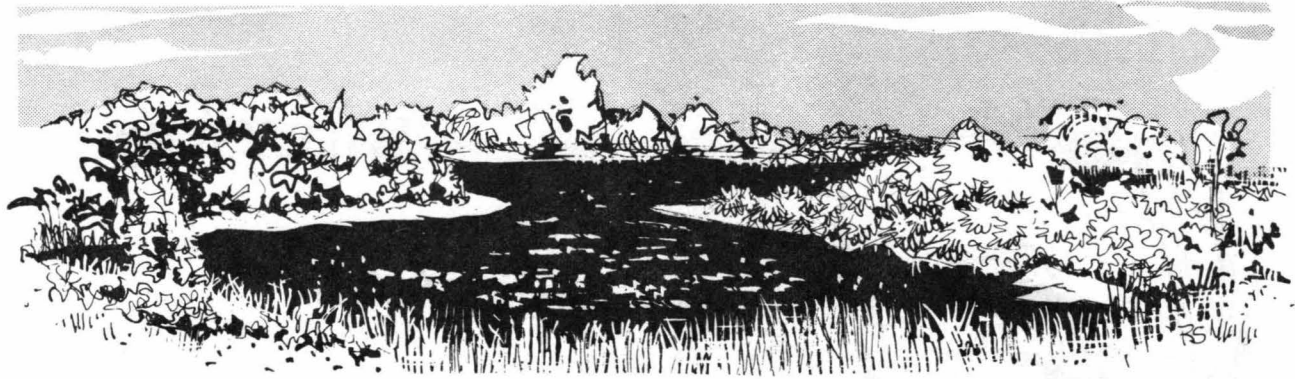
St. Louis Audubon members have a whole series of interesting events awaiting them this spring. Because it promises to be an especially exciting occasion, the last one will be listed first. This is the first annual Audubon Society Dinner which will be held on Tuesday, May 22. At the time of publication full details were not available, but Leonard Hall has promised to be with us and to show a new film. Information on place, time and reservations will be sent later, but mark your calendar now for May 22.

Two days earlier on Sunday, May 20 we will have another equally delightful occasion for getting together, made possible by two other members, Ruby and Burrell Pickering. They have again invited us to be their guests for a family Nature Outing at Sunny Ranch. Details are on page 2. The Pickerings will also be hosts to the final session of the Photography Workshop on Saturday May 5. Full information and application blank on pages 8 and 9.

May 5, which should be the height of the migration season, will also be the day of the Annual Spring Census. For information about this and the Spring Birdwalks in Forest Park and Shaw's Garden see page 15.

Still working backwards we come to another event of great importance for which more details will be sent later. The Coalition for the Environment will have Luna Leopold as speaker on Thursday April 26. Audubon members are invited to hear him. The name Leopold is the magic name in ecology circles. Aldo Leopold's books, especially "Sand County Almanac" are basic and delightful works in the field. His children have kept up the family tradition. Luna Leopold has served as environmental consultant on many projects including the Aswan Dam and Miami Jetport and is currently with the University of California at Berkeley.

Friday, April 13 is the date of the last Audubon Wildlife Film of the season. Fabulous Africa by Edgar T. Jones will take us to Kenya and Tanzania with beautiful sequences of the varied wildlife and scenery of the Rift Valley. It will be shown, as usual, at 8:15 at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road. This meeting is of special importance because the nominating committee will make its report and new officers will be elected.



Everybody feeling a bit breathless? I must admit I am. There should be something for everybody so be sure to consult the calendar on the back page for a complete summary of the exciting spring-things to come.

And inside the bulletin? First of all, we are honored to have as guest, Jim Keefe, who is the editor of the Missouri Conservationist, the excellent publication of our Missouri Conservation Department. Incidentally, this is available free to any Missourian, from the Department in Jefferson City. As Mr. Keefe says, we may not always agree on specific points, but there can be no disagreement on the necessity for all of us to cooperate in the general cause of conservation. In a covering letter he asked if he was to 'guest or ghost' for Betty Wilson, our environmental columnist who has been in India. The answer, Jim, is 'guest' -- and welcome back anytime.

Speaking of the Department of Conservation - their publication "Guide to Missouri Wildflowers" by our Edgar Denison is about to go into a second printing of 25,000 copies! The first printing, 10,000, is nearly sold out!

Which leads us to this month's artist and writer, Marge Richardson, whose beautiful drawings and words about sandhill cranes you will find on page 4. This is a second appearance for Marge and we hope it will not be the last.

And finally there is the insert about the L-15 levee from the Coalition for the Environment. The St. Louis Audubon Society has made a statement in opposition to this disastrous project and we are glad to join with the Coalition in circulating information about it.

M.C.W.

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#### NATURE OUTING AT SUNNY RANCH

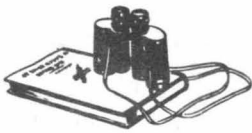
The St. Louis Audubon Society will hold a spring all-day Nature Outing Sunday, May 20, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burrell L. Pickering, Sunny Ranch, Wright City. Members of the Society and their families are invited to bring lunch and gather any time after 10:00 A.M. Those who went to the fall outing at Sunny Ranch will remember the generous hospitality of the Pickerings, as well as the beauty and interest of the Nature Trails leading through the fields and forests along the streams and to the lake-side picnic site. The Nature Museum will be open for a visit, and there will be leaders ready to guide special interest groups for Birds, Botany, Butterflies and other Insects, Geology, Pond Life and Forestry. Bluebird nesting should be in full swing; for those who 'never see a bluebird any more', here is a chance to see what can be done to encourage our beautiful state bird. Directions to Sunny Ranch in Warren County are as follows:

From St. Louis: Interstate 70-US 40 to Foristell which is 32 miles from Lindbergh. Turn left (south) at overpass and follow Highway T for 5 miles to intersection with Highway M. (Do not turn on Highway 00). Turn right on Highway M for 1½ miles to Highway O. Turn left on Highway O for 2 miles. Farm is on left side of road, red metal gate, sign on pole. House sets back ½ mile through the gate.

=====

#### Coalition for the Environment

will sponsor a benefit performance of The Mouse Trap at the Loretto-Hilton Theatre in Webster Groves on March 20th. Assuming you can still get tickets by the time you receive this bulletin, you should see an exciting performance, topped off with beer and cheese in the lobby. Prices are \$7, \$11, and \$25. Call Mrs. Lenore Loeb for information. 962-1044



## Audubon Summer Camp Scholarships



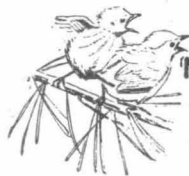
All citizens and especially teachers and youth leaders have become aware of their increasing responsibility for stimulating the next generation in natural history and ecology and promoting a real sense of value by using our environment intelligently.

For many years the St. Louis Audubon Society has awarded scholarships for attendance at the Summer Camps. The recipients have gained a new understanding and appreciation of our nation's wildlife heritage. These people have made significant contributions to our community.

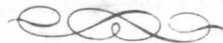
This year our organization is sending seven people to the camps. The national office has recognized the St. Louis Audubon Society's outstanding efforts in this endeavor. It is reported that we are awarding more scholarships than any other local organization in the United States. One of our meetings next fall might well be devoted to the summer camp experiences of some of these recipients.

The recipients of this year's awards are:

- Miss Emily Fast, biology teacher, Hazelwood Schools - Connecticut Camp
- Mr. Raymond Feick, teacher, St. Louis City Schools - Maine Camp
- Mrs. Alyce Hildebrandt, teacher, St. Louis City Schools - Wisconsin Camp
- Mr. Richard Hovorka, science department chairman, Hazelwood Schools - Wisconsin Camp
- Mrs. William Kloppe, Teacher, Webster Groves Schools - Wisconsin Camp
- Mrs. Ethel Nolte, Consultant, Ferguson-Florissant Schools - Maine Camp
- Mr. James Paffrath, teacher and youth leader, Hazelwood Schools - Wisconsin Camp



## **Welcome!** **NEW MEMBERS**



Mr. Harold D. Altis  
Miss L. E. Breckenridge  
Mrs. M. N. Brill  
Mr. & Mrs. William Brittain  
R. K. Burton  
Mr. Michael Cosgrove  
Mr. Marcus B. Crisman & Family  
A. Dudley Curry  
Mrs. Hallowell Davis  
Mr. John W. Dependahl  
Mr. Roger Eggland  
D. M. Epstein  
Miss Marie Gildehaus  
Mr. Harold J. Good  
Mr. Robert Hafer  
Mrs. O. E. Hagebusch  
Mrs. Lucille Hayward  
Mr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Hill  
Mr. Jack Laub  
The Maxwells

Mr. William E. Moehlenbrock  
Richard Mueller Fammily  
Mrs. James Peters  
Mr. Ernest Q. Petrey  
Mr. Milton S. Pohler  
Mr. Thomas G. Pusey  
Mr. Phillip Hambow  
Mrs. F. J. W. Reed  
Miss Areola Reinhardt  
Mr. Walter R. Reuter  
Mr. Frank X. Rohan  
Ernest T. Ronse, M. D.  
Mrs. Joseph Scammon  
Mrs. R. S. Silverwood  
Mrs. Gaylord Sohns  
Mr. Dell B. Stafford  
Mr. Andy Stern  
Mr. Glenn E. Thoming  
T. C. Tupper, Jr.  
Mrs. Jack Weber  
Mrs. George Wulff  
Mrs. Roger Zehntner



## FOUR THOUSAND SANDHILL CRANES

Marjorie Richardson

They were there, every spring and fall, just fifty-three miles from where I was born in northern Indiana, but I didn't know it. I had to grow up, move away from my home state, become a nature watcher, and then go home again (or fifty-three miles from it) before I ever saw what I had missed. And what a magnificent sight it was--- four thousand sandhill cranes assembling on their resting grounds in the late afternoon at the Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Indiana.

From every direction they came, in small flocks and large, announcing their arrival with gurgles and calls, circling as though deciding where to land, dropping their legs and holding their wings at a perfect aerial curve, then landing gently, so gently. Many words have been used to describe these birds - beautiful, magnificent, rare, endangered, mysterious, cautious, nervous, intelligent, wild, wary - all true but revealing only part of this great bird's character. I would add another - amusing (revealing, though, perhaps more of the observer's character than the bird's!)

Sandhill cranes look like parachutists as they curve their wings and drop their legs, looking for a safe place to land. Their apparent urge to flock in great numbers after a day of solitary or small flock feeding seems humanly sociable. And the calls that fill the air as they advance toward their resting grounds do seem to say, "What a great day! We're on our way."

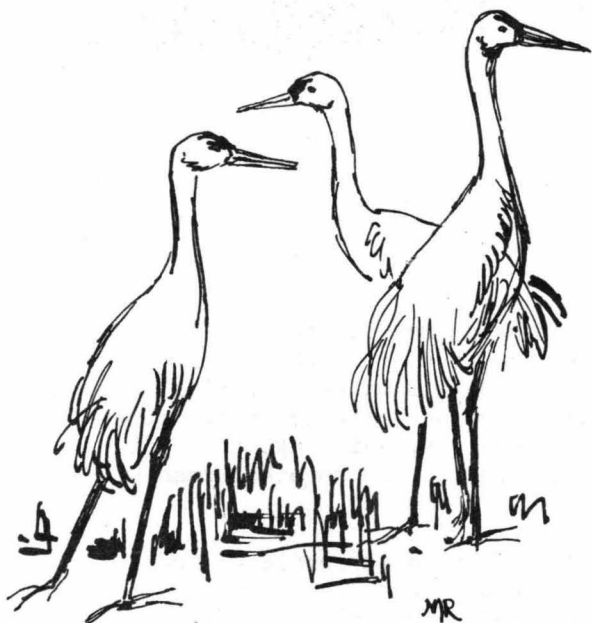
The calls subside as the birds land and several thousand assemble on the resting grounds. These gregarious cousins of the exceedingly rare whooping cranes are four feet tall and have a wingspread of six to seven feet. They move deliberately with great dignity; then, surprisingly, an occasional crane will hop or jump, and flap his wings and appear to be dancing! When "bedtime" comes, they take a few long, running strides to help in take-off and the air is again filled with that wild gurgle and the sky is moving with flocks of cranes announcing their withdrawal for the night to the marshes in the refuge.

The entranced viewer, watching from a distant blind, is reluctant to leave; but growing darkness makes the few lingering cranes hard to see. There are pleasant camp grounds on the refuge for those romantics who like to feel they are sleeping with wild things! And it makes it easier to get up at dawn to watch the birds repeat their sunset performance: assembling in early morning on the resting grounds before dispersing to feed.





They have cast their spell, these magnificent wild creatures. Now that I've seen what my childhood years missed I shall never miss them again. I'll just close my eyes and see and hear the cranes, their bugling gurgles announcing that they are on their way, then their sudden appearance in small flocks and large, crowding the sky by the hundreds, sometimes thousands, their sudden shifts of direction if they become aware of observers below, their amusing landings and take-offs, their great dignity. The sandhill cranes will never again be only a part of nature, but now also a part of me.



(After a trip in October, 1972 to the Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Refuge, inspired by an article, "A Gathering of Cranes", by Bill Thomas, in the September 12, 1971 St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The refuge is approximately fifty-five miles north of Lafayette, Indiana, on United States Highway 421.)

#### WILDERNESS BILLS

A concerted effort by all the important conservation-minded groups in this country has resulted in several bills being introduced in the Congress. By far the most desirable bill will be debated in the Senate, the EASTERN OMNIBUS WILDERNESS BILL - S 316. In the past, only lands which were actual (de facto) wilderness could become protected Wilderness areas. This provision made it impossible to find land suitable for Wilderness qualification in the East or the Midwest. In the new bills, recognition is given to the fact that land will RETURN to wilderness status, IF left alone by Man.

Another bill introduced into the Senate is backed by the Forest Service. It is vague, leaves out all boundary specifications, and is worded in such a way that there is no guarantee that undesirable developments are truly banned. Logging, mining, roads, motor vehicles such as motorcycles and snowmobiles, concessions and other undesirable "perversions" are not really excluded under this weak bill.

S 316 especially benefits Missourians as it proposes three Wilderness Areas in our state: The Irish Wilderness, Hercules Glade, and Rockpile Mountain. Your Board instructed me to write letters favoring the bill to its sponsor, Senator Jackson, and to our own Senator, Thomas F. Eagleton. Letters written by individual members, especially to Senators Symington and Eagleton, would be very timely and helpful.

Edgar Denison

Address letters to:

The Honorable Stuart Symington }  
The Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton }

Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

# Focus on the



Jim Keefe  
Information Officer  
Missouri Department of Conservation

## Design for Conservation

The steering committee for the Citizens Committee for Conservation has adopted a wait-and-see position for the time being. The Citizens Committee has been reviewing various alternatives to the proposed soft drink tax to fund the Department of Conservation's "Design for Conservation", and a special study group recommended again that a petition drive to get a soft drink tax on the ballot be undertaken. The study group said that the soft drink tax remained the single best way to finance the Design program, as no other possibilities offered the chance to achieve full funding.

However, with Governor Bond's recommendation that about \$2 million be appropriated from federal revenue sharing funds to start funding the Design, the Citizens committee at a meeting February 3 decided to hold off on any petition drive to see if the State Legislature would support Bond's recommendation. The Conservation Department would use the \$2 million to begin development of the Ted Shanks Wildlife Area north of St. Louis as a combination sports-education-demonstration area.

Department people are excited about the Ted Shanks Area's possibilities, and have been busily drafting development plans along the lines proposed in the Design for Conservation, which place heavy emphasis on year-round use of such areas for nature study as well as field sports. They would like to make the Shanks Area the model for future public use area development.

## Conservation's Conflicts

Of special concern to me lately have been what I consider internal squabbles among conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts, each overly concerned with their own narrow interests. The result of such squabbles is to dissipate our effectiveness in attacking the major problem of Missouri's outdoors.

This is not to belittle the attitudes and philosophies of varied interests. Rather, I feel that a little tolerance for the attitudes of others can help us all achieve some measure of what we want most. There is room in the outdoors for all of us. Those who adopt an all or nothing attitude are sure to achieve nothing, for we are all going to lose. None of us wants that. If I have learned anything in my work in public affairs, it is that everything eventually results in some sort of compromise, if anything is going to be achieved.

It is right and proper that each of us have a paramount goal with respect to conservation and the outdoors. But it is vital that we practice some tolerance and join hands with others with different goals in working toward saving some outdoors in which we can be diverse. The many forces arrayed against saving the natural world make it imperative that those who care about conservation put aside minor differences to win the bigger battle. We can ultimately win something for ourselves, but first we must win something for all.

# ANNUAL ELECTIONS

It's election time again. A nominating committee has been chosen by the board and is ready to go to work. So that you may make suggestions to them, their names are listed below. Suggestions must be received by April 1st, as the election will be held in conjunction with the wild-life film on Friday, April 13th. This is an extremely important election since the officers have all served two one-year terms and are not eligible for re-election to the same office. They may, however be nominated for one of the expiring terms on the board of directors or for a different office. Board members whose terms expire may be nominated for a second three year term or may be nominated as officers. Please send suggestions to -

Mrs. William G. Bowling  
7408 Washington, 63130  
Phone: 863-4641

Mrs. Edmund C. Rogers  
2 Bridle Creek Road, 63124  
Phone: 993-1271

Mrs. Alan McD. Goodloe  
108 S. Rock Hill Rd., 63119  
Phone: 961-7393

## ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

Editor Mrs. William Wiese  
711 N. Taylor  
Kirkwood, Mo. 63122  
Telephone 965-2310

Assistants Mrs. Gerome Chambers  
Mrs. Jay Rice

Advisory Committee Mrs. Earl Hath  
Mrs. Warren Lammert  
Mrs. Joel Massie  
Mrs. Hiram Norcross



## Application for Joint Membership

Check the Membership You Desire (includes Audubon Magazine)

|                  |                                           |                    |                                            |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Individual ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> \$12.00 per year | Supporting .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50.00 per year |
| Family .....     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 per year | Contributing ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 per year |
| Sustaining ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 per year | Donor .....        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 per year |
| Life .....       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000.00        |                    |                                            |

Name ..... Please Print

Address .....

City..... State..... Zip #.....

Your Local Chapter ..... **St. Louis Audubon Society** .....

**IMPORTANT:** Indicate whether this is a new membership or a renewal payment by checking the proper box.—NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐

Please make checks payable to: — National Audubon Society,  
950 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022

Membership Fees and Contributions are tax deductible.

## ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

### Officers

#### Terms expire election 1973

Earl H. Hath, President  
Martin Schweig, Jr., Vice President  
Mrs. Warren Lammert, Vice President  
Leo Drey, Vice President  
Mrs. Earl H. Hath, Secretary  
Jay G. Rice, Treasurer

### Board of Directors

#### Terms expire election 1973

Edgar Denison  
Harry Giessow  
Richard P. Grossenheider  
G. Alex Hope  
Henry Kendall  
J. Marshall Magner  
George Winkler

#### Terms expire election 1974

Paul Bauer  
Louis Brenner  
William Brush  
Gary Giessow  
Mrs. Joel Massie  
Mrs. Eleonore Nelson  
Edward Ortleb  
Mrs. William E. Wiese

#### Terms expire election 1975

George Billy III  
Miss Mable E. Boss  
Miss Martha Love  
Mrs. Edward F. Mason  
Miss Sharon Miller  
Mrs. Hiram Norcross, Jr.  
Dr. Mildred Trotter  
Kurt P. Wesseling, Jr.

### Honorary Directors

William G. Bowling  
E. G. Cherbonnier  
J. Earl Comfort  
Miss Elizabeth Golterman  
Leonard Hall  
Joel Massie  
Waldemar A. Palm  
Mrs. Edmund C. Rogers

### Executive Secretary

Mrs. Jay Rice  
240 Blackmer Place  
St. Louis, Mo. 63119  
Telephone 961-0895

\* \* \* \*

If you know of anyone who should be receiving the Bulletin but isn't, please communicate with Mrs. Rice. Changes in address should also be sent to her.

FOURTH ANNUAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP  
OF THE  
ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY



1973's FOUR SECTION SEMINAR WILL PROPOUND NO DRY TECHNICALITIES OR BORING THEORIES. SIX TEAMS OF EXPERT NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS (ALL WORKING PHOTOGRAPHERS, PHOTO-JOURNALISTS, LECTURERS WHO USE THEIR OWN PHOTOGRAPHY TO ILLUSTRATE TALKS, AND WINNERS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS) WILL SHOW SIMPLE, PRACTICAL APPROACHES TO NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY. "HOW TO" TIPS THAT WOULD TAKE YOU YEARS OF EXPERIMENTING ON YOUR OWN TO LEARN WILL BE DETAILED.

THIS ONE AND ONLY IN-THE-FIELD NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE IN THE ST. LOUIS AREA STRESSES TEACHING BY "DOING" - THE BEST WAY TO LEARN AND RETAIN. YOU WILL USE YOUR CAMERA IN A VARIETY OF NATURAL SETTINGS TO PHOTOGRAPH NATURE SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO YOU UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND SUPERVISION OF OUR INSTRUCTOR TEAMS.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR AGE, FROM TEEN TO OCTOGENARIAN, IF YOU ARE A SERIOUS PHOTOGRAPHER AND WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC SKILLS THIS IS A COURSE YOU MUST NOT MISS! UNDER ITS PUBLIC SERVICE POLICY THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY IS OPENING THIS WORKSHOP TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ADDITION TO ITS MEMBERSHIP. TO INSURE INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION AND GUIDANCE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS MUST BE LIMITED. THEREFORE, RESERVATIONS WILL BE TAKEN ON A FIRST COME, FIRST ACCEPTED BASIS. DON'T DELAY - OUR PAST WORKSHOPS WERE OVER-SUBSCRIBED WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT. APPLICANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 12 YEARS OLD OR OLDER. THERE WILL BE SPECIAL SECTIONS ON THE FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNERS AND THOSE INTERESTED IN THE BASICS OF NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD COMES INTO SHARP FOCUS FOR THE SERIOUS NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER. THE DISCERNING EYE OF THE CAMERA SEES EVERYTHING WITHIN THE RANGE OF ITS LENS. RESULTS WILL AMAZE YOU WITH WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING IN MAN'S HABITUALLY CASUAL OBSERVANCE OF HIS SURROUNDINGS. EVER NOTICE THE AMBER IRIS OF THE EYE OF A MOCKINGBIRD? THE RED DOT ON THE BACK OF A BUMBLEBEE? NATURE'S EXQUISITE ARTISTRY IN HER TINIEST BLOSSOMS SUCH AS THE ORCHID-LIKE FASHIONING OF THE MINUTE HENBIT FLOWER? OR THE BEAUTY IN A PATCH OF WEEDS? NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY REVEALS SUCH WONDERS TO YOU, AND YOUR CAMERA ENABLES YOU TO RECORD THEM FOR YOUR REPEATED ENJOYMENT, AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND PLEASURE OF ALL WHO VIEW YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY. THE NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER'S CAMERA IS THE "SHOW AND TELL" LINK BETWEEN MAN AND HIS ALL-ENCOMPASSING NATURAL WORLD.

WORKSHOP PROGRAM: INDOOR SESSION, TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1973, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., in the main auditorium of the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

FIELD DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1973, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton, Illinois. Meet at Visitors' Center just west of Lodge.

INDOOR SESSION, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1973, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., in the main auditorium of the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

FIELD DAY, SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1973, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Pickerings' SUNNY RANCH PRIVATE WILDLIFE AND NATURE PRESERVE, Warren County, Missouri. Directions included in information packet issued to registrants. This closing session will end with a roast beef dinner at the '76 Restaurant at Foristel Exit on Interstate 70.



YOU'LL BE INFORMED - about wearing apparel - what to wear and why. About basic equipment for nature photography. About a variety of equipment setups for nature photography. About the how and why of nature photography. About photography by "doing" (you'll be taking pictures with your equipment) under expert supervision. And you will receive a MANUAL of invaluable information and tips about photography prepared by your six instructor teams. Your instructors will be: Warren Iammert, George and Millie Blaha, Tom and Cynthia Brooks, Jim and Charlene Jackson, Walter and Vivian Liddell, and Ed and Lee Mason.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THIS NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP - OR PARTICIPANTS IN ANY OF THE THREE PREVIOUS WORKSHOPS OF THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY'S NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES (September-October 1970, May 1971, May 1972) - ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS COMPETITION. EACH CONTESTANT WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER NOT MORE THAN TEN (10) TRANSPARENCIES OF NATURE SUBJECTS. CONTEST DEADLINE IS JUNE 15, 1973. NO ENTRY POSTMARKED LATER THAN JUNE 15, 1973, WILL BE CONSIDERED. JUDGES' DECISIONS ARE FINAL. EACH SLIDE MUST SHOW NAME AND ADDRESS OF SUBMITTER AND SUBJECT TITLE. BE SURE TO PROTECT YOUR ENTRIES WITH CAREFUL WRAPPING. SEND CONTEST ENTRIES (TOGETHER WITH STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR THEIR RETURN TO YOU) TO: ST. LOUIS AUDUBON PHOTO CONTEST, 8410 MADELINE DRIVE, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, 63114.

AN ELEVEN INCH BY FOURTEEN INCH MOUNTED PRINT WILL BE MADE OF EACH WINNING ENTRY. ALL SUCH PRINTS WILL BECOME A TRAVELING EXHIBIT TO BE DISPLAYED IN AND AROUND ST. LOUIS AND THE METROPOLITAN AREA BY THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY. AFTER THE FINAL SHOWING, CONTESTANTS WILL BE GIVEN THEIR WINNING PRINTS, DULY CERTIFIED AS DISPLAY AWARD WINNERS BY THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY.

REGISTRATION DETAILS: FEE FOR THE FOUR SESSION WORKSHOP, INCLUDING A ROAST BEEF DINNER AT '76 RESTAURANT FOR THE CLOSING GETTOGETHER AFTER THE SUNNY RANCH FIELD DAY, IS \$10.00 PER PERSON. IF YOU CAN ONLY ATTEND THE APRIL 24 and APRIL 28 SESSIONS, THE FEE IS \$5.00 PER PERSON. IF YOU CAN ONLY ATTEND THE MAY 1 and MAY 5 SESSIONS (which includes the roast beef dinner), THE FEE IS \$7.50 PER PERSON. IF YOU BRING A SPOUSE TO THE SUNNY RANCH FIELD DAY, TO ENJOY THE WONDERS AND DELIGHTS OF THIS MARVELOUS PRESERVE WHILE YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKSHOP, YOUR SPOUSE IS INVITED TO JOIN THE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS AT THE CLOSING DINNER FOR A CHARGE OF \$2.50. BRING NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL TO ALL SESSIONS!

-----  
REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Send to: ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY TOUR COMMITTEE  
2109 BRIARGATE LANE  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63122

Enclosed is check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ person(s) to FOUR SESSION WORKSHOP (Apr. 24, 28, May 1, 5, including dinner) \$10.00 each.  
\_\_\_\_\_ person(s) to APRIL WORKSHOP SESSIONS ONLY (April 24, 28) - \$5.00 each.  
\_\_\_\_\_ person(s) to MAY WORKSHOP SESSIONS and DINNER ONLY (May 1, 5 and dinner) - \$7.50 each.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dinner fee for spouse for May 5 dinner ONLY - \$2.50

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK: I WANT INSTRUCTION IN THE BASICS OF NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 23, 1973, AS REMAINING REGISTRATIONS WILL BE FILLED FROM THE AUDIENCE ATTENDING THE OPENING SESSION APRIL 24, 1973. REGISTRATIONS ARE LIMITED - DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED - GET YOUR APPLICATION IN EARLY!

IN CASE OF RAIN ON APRIL 28 OR MAY 5, THE OUTDOOR FIELD SESSIONS DATES, THESE SESSIONS WILL BE HELD THE FOLLOWING DAY - APRIL 29 OR MAY 6.

IF THIS APPLICATION IS FOR MORE THAN ONE PERSON, PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH APPLICANT.



# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



Below is a summary of the St. Louis area 1971 and 1972 Christmas counts. Bare statistics tell nothing of the icy roads, flooded fields and generally miserable conditions encountered by more than one hundred intrepid observers on the three 1972 censuses. This was one of the nearly 1000 nationwide counts this year with about 20,000 observers. By the time this bulletin is received the full story of all these counts may have appeared in American Birds.

Robert Arbib, its editor, had a very entertaining article in the Saturday Review (December 23) in which he told of the origin of the counts in 1900 as a substitute for the Christmas "side hunts" (hunts in which two teams tried to see which "side" could shoot the most game.) One man has missed only one annual count since then (he was in the hospital - furious!) Our own bird reporter, Earl Comfort, has been counting since 1938 and is still going strong.

|                        | Pere Marquette    |        | Orchard Farm |      | Busch         |      |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|------|---------------|------|
|                        | Mark Twain Refuge |        |              |      | Wildlife Area |      |
|                        | 1972              | 1971   | 1972         | 1971 | 1972          | 1971 |
| Pied-billed Grebe      | --                | --     | --           | --   | --            | 1    |
| Great Blue Heron       | --                | 4      | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Whistling Swan         | --                | 2      | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Canada Goose           | 1,340             | 1,970  | 7,006        | 19   | 1,009         | 527  |
| Snow Goose             | 2,000             | 1,500  | 385          | --   | 1             | 1    |
| Blue Goose             | 7,000             | 4,500  | 2,407        | --   | --            | --   |
| Mallard                | 50,000            | 16,530 | 31           | 153  | 158           | 461  |
| Black Duck             | 40                | 685    | --           | 1    | 10            | 6    |
| Gadwall                | 1                 | 85     | --           | --   | --            | 2    |
| Pintail                | --                | 276    | --           | --   | --            | 1    |
| Green-winged Teal      | --                | 8      | --           | --   | --            | 7    |
| American Widgeon       | 4                 | 27     | --           | --   | --            | 19   |
| Shoveler               | --                | 3      | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Redhead                | --                | 2      | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Ring-necked Duck       | 1                 | 184    | --           | --   | 10            | 12   |
| Canvasback             | 2                 | 20     | --           | --   | --            | 1    |
| Common Goldeneye       | 340               | 31     | 4            | --   | 2             | --   |
| Bufflehead             | --                | 14     | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Ruddy Duck             | --                | 19     | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Hooded Merganser       | --                | 2      | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Common Merganser       | 406               | 402    | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk     | --                | --     | --           | --   | 4             | 2    |
| Cooper's Hawk          | --                | 1      | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Accipiter(Sp.)         | --                | --     | --           | --   | --            | 1    |
| Red-tailed Hawk        | 44                | 40     | 14           | 26   | 17            | 15   |
| Harlan's Hawk          | --                | --     | --           | --   | 1             | --   |
| Rough-legged Hawk      | 2                 | 5      | 1            | 2    | --            | --   |
| Bald Eagle-Grd.        | 64                | 45     | 11           | 2    | --            | --   |
| Golden Eagle           | 1                 | --     | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Marsh Hawk             | 5                 | 15     | 12           | 27   | 2             | 1    |
| Sparrow Hawk           | 25                | 13     | 21           | 17   | 5             | 1    |
| Bobwhite               | 40                | 82     | 13           | 67   | 166           | 141  |
| Ring-necked Pheasant   | --                | --     | --           | 7    | 1             | 1    |
| American Coot          | --                | 177    | --           | 12   | --            | 5    |
| Killdeer               | --                | 17     | --           | 3    | --            | 16   |
| Common Snipe           | --                | 16     | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Glaucous Gull          | --                | --     | 1            | --   | --            | --   |
| Herring Gull           | 130               | 1      | 37           | 8    | --            | --   |
| Ring-billed Gull       | 258               | 230    | 482          | 368  | --            | --   |
| Mourning Dove          | 83                | 102    | 203          | 159  | 14            | 9    |
| Screech Owl            | 1                 | 1      | --           | --   | --            | --   |
| Great Horned Owl       | 2                 | 4      | --           | --   | --            | 1    |
| Barred Owl             | 2                 | 3      | --           | --   | --            | 2    |
| Long-eared Owl         | 1                 | --     | --           | --   | --            | 2    |
| Short-eared Owl        | --                | --     | --           | 8    | --            | --   |
| Belted Kingfisher      | 2                 | 1      | 3            | 1    | 3             | 9    |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker | 52                | 126    | 52           | 22   | 25            | 77   |
| Pileated Woodpecker    | 17                | 16     | 5            | --   | 10            | 9    |

|                           | Pere Marquette    |        | Orchard Farm |       | Busch         |        |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|-------|---------------|--------|
|                           | Mark Twain Refuge |        |              |       | Wildlife Area |        |
|                           | 1972              | 1971   | 1972         | 1971  | 1972          | 1971   |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker    | 147               | 123    | 23           | 14    | 80            | 143    |
| Red-headed Woodpecker     | 69                | 122    | 41           | 31    | 2             | 19     |
| Yellow-bellied Woodpecker | 2                 | 4      | --           | 1     | --            | 3      |
| Hairy Woodpecker          | 23                | 24     | 3            | 2     | 23            | 19     |
| Downy Woodpecker          | 132               | 249    | 49           | 22    | 75            | 124    |
| Horned Lark               | 82                | 4      | 42           | 116   | 31            | 14     |
| Blue Jay                  | 191               | 156    | 34           | 26    | 325           | 251    |
| Common Crow               | 378               | 230    | 269          | 175   | 79            | 82     |
| Black-capped Chickadee    | 179               | 222    | 44           | 31    | 203           | 253    |
| Carolina Chickadee        | --                | --     | --           | 2     | --            | --     |
| Tufted Titmouse           | 153               | 198    | 91           | 35    | 145           | 188    |
| White-breasted Nuthatch   | 72                | 63     | 2            | 2     | 45            | 55     |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch     | 1                 | --     | --           | --    | --            | 2      |
| Brown Creeper             | 4                 | 17     | --           | 5     | 3             | 12     |
| Winter Wren               | --                | --     | --           | --    | 3             | 4      |
| Bewick's Wren             | --                | --     | --           | --    | 1             | --     |
| Carolina Wren             | 40                | 90     | 17           | 8     | 34            | 103    |
| Short-billed Marsh Wren   | --                | 2      | --           | --    | --            | --     |
| Mockingbird               | 12                | 19     | 8            | 10    | 34            | 64     |
| Brown Thrasher            | --                | --     | --           | --    | 4             | 4      |
| Robin                     | 4                 | 30     | 1            | 25    | 30            | 477    |
| Hermit Thrush             | --                | --     | --           | --    | --            | 1      |
| Eastern Bluebird          | 27                | 92     | 6            | 6     | 47            | 132    |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet    | 15                | 29     | --           | 1     | 5             | 34     |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet      | --                | 2      | --           | --    | --            | --     |
| Cedar Waxwing             | --                | 59     | --           | 79    | 4             | 1,689  |
| Loggerhead Shrike         | 4                 | 5      | 1            | 1     | 2             | 1      |
| Starling                  | 3,868             | 1,228  | 4,769        | 456   | 184           | 936    |
| Myrtle Warbler            | 2                 | 4      | --           | 1     | 1             | 53     |
| House Sparrow             | 3,091             | 1,984  | 2,372        | 1,251 | 210           | 919    |
| European Tree Sparrow     | 67                | 110    | 81           | 53    | 1             | --     |
| Eastern Meadowlark        | 88                | 112    | 78           | 212   | 45            | 59     |
| Western Meadowlark        | --                | 2      | --           | --    | --            | --     |
| Red-winged Blackbird      | 9,128             | 2,966  | 787          | 1,937 | 37            | 400    |
| Rusty Blackbird           | 8                 | 7      | 2            | 9     | --            | --     |
| Brewer's Blackbird        | --                | --     | --           | 4     | --            | --     |
| Common Grackle            | 4,211             | 761    | 154          | 130   | 2             | 11     |
| Brown-headed Cowbird      | 401               | 3      | 1            | 164   | --            | --     |
| Cardinal                  | 364               | 619    | 66           | 117   | 365           | 586    |
| Evening Grosbeak          | 4                 | --     | --           | --    | --            | --     |
| Purple Finch              | 1                 | --     | --           | --    | 40            | 9      |
| Pine Siskin               | 3                 | --     | 4            | 8     | 12            | 3      |
| American Goldfinch        | 164               | 106    | 24           | 65    | 270           | 504    |
| Red Crossbill             | --                | --     | --           | --    | 9             | --     |
| Rufous-sided Towhee       | 1                 | --     | --           | --    | 10            | 4      |
| Savannah Sparrow          | --                | 3      | --           | --    | --            | --     |
| Le Conte's Sparrow        | --                | 1      | --           | --    | --            | 5      |
| Vesper Sparrow            | 3                 | --     | --           | --    | 1             | --     |
| Slate-colored Junco       | 422               | 640    | 182          | 74    | 1,839         | 1,350  |
| Oregon Junco              | --                | --     | 1            | --    | 5             | 1      |
| Tree Sparrow              | 134               | 217    | 246          | 148   | 294           | 451    |
| Field Sparrow             | --                | 11     | 5            | 13    | 25            | 28     |
| White-crowned Sparrow     | 22                | 13     | 31           | 4     | 146           | 158    |
| White-throated Sparrow    | 27                | 22     | 35           | 1     | 35            | 62     |
| Fox Sparrow               | 1                 | 14     | --           | --    | 10            | 10     |
| Lincoln's Sparrow         | --                | --     | --           | --    | --            | 2      |
| Swamp Sparrow             | 56                | 126    | 2            | 1     | 63            | 58     |
| Song Sparrow              | 120               | 213    | 69           | 29    | 302           | 247    |
| Lapland Longspur          | 40                | --     | --           | 1     | --            | --     |
| Total Species             | 71                | 83     | 52           | 59    | 62            | 72     |
| Individuals               | 85,623            | 38,076 | 20,288       | 6,172 | 6,552         | 10,838 |
| (Approximations)          |                   |        |              |       |               |        |



## SAINT LOUIS AREA JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BIRDING

by J. Earl Comfort

January birding in 1973 in the St. Louis area showed a definite scarcity of birds compared to other years. This was particularly true concerning ducks. Never in modern birding history has there been such a dearth of January ducks in Illinois on the Mississippi River between Alton and Grafton.

Some rare January birds in the AOU checklist order listed locally were Barrow's goldeneye, goshawk, Harlan's hawk, golden eagle, Iceland gull and red crossbill. The rare goldeneye, the bird of the month and candidate for bird of the year, was first seen by the trio of Yvonne Balsiger, Dorothy McClaren and Betty Samuelson.

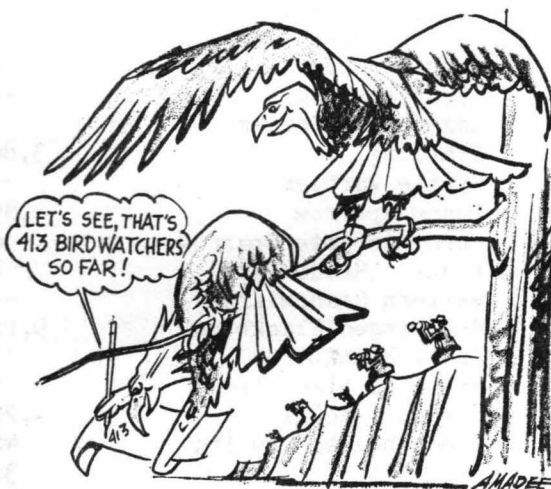
Area February birding centered to a great extent on hunting golden eagles, which are usually quite scarce here. One or two of these big fellows thrilled many birders during the month. The easiest spot to locate one was at Gilbert Lake in Jersey County, Illinois, where Sally Vasse spotted one early in the year. Gilbert is part of the Mark Twain Wildlife Refuge. Dick Vasse supervises the Calhoun Division of this extensive refuge.



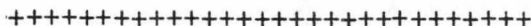
### February 17, 1973 Eagle Count

125 observers from the St. Louis Audubon Society covered the territory from Winfield Dam to Saverton Dam. 99 bald eagles were sighted. 68 were adult birds, 23 juveniles and 8 unknown. The 1973 count was two birds less than 1972. There were fewer observers and a light cloud haze. More eagles were observed in the territory from Louisiana to Clarksville earlier in the month. After eight years of observing it begins to break into the pattern of the brighter and clearer the day, the more eagles counted.

Great Rivers Chapter of the Illinois Audubon with 55 observers sighted 115 bald eagles and 1 golden eagle. Of the 115 bald eagles, 49 were adult birds, 64 juveniles and 2 unknown. Fewer eagles were counted on this census than in 1972.



Cartoon reprinted with the permission of the artist, Amadee, from Tim Renken's article on the Eagle Count in the St. Louis Post Dispatch of February 22, 1973.



The "Reluctant Loon" travels on and on. Those of you who read the story in the January issue of the St. Louis Audubon Bulletin and in Len Hall's column may be interested to know the articles were picked up by the Associated Press and letters have been received from Laredo, Texas; Tucson, Arizona; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Allentown, Pennsylvania.



An air force pilot flying west from Scott Field, Illinois on February 7 reported sighting a flock of blackbirds and grackles traveling north. This flock extended from 12 to 15 miles. No estimate was given of the width of the flight. This pilot was a Montana "birder" and said while he had observed many such flights, he had never encountered one this long.

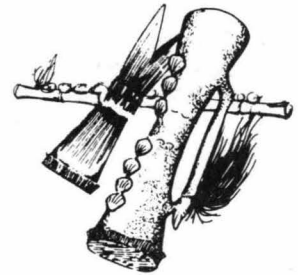
And on a recent flight to Tulsa the editor was delighted to spot three coyotes running on the air field. So delighted, in fact, that when the pilot's voice came over the inter-com to point them out, she called back "Yes, yes, I see them". and immediately felt like an idiot. Fortunately no one was seated nearby!





## REPORT FROM NEW GUINEA

Mary C. Wiese  
(Excerpts from letters  
continued from  
January Bulletin)



6 P.M., August 11, Wau, New Guinea

We have met Mt. Kaindi and she is ours, thoroughly explored, all 7500 feet of her. We just arrived home after a really glorious but exhausting day. However, it wasn't at all the way I had pictured it. They keep telling us how fortunate we are to have such unusual weather, that is, another clear crisp day, with no mist at all even in the mist forest. I got sun-burned rather than moist. At 7500 feet this near the equator the sun is very effective. We could never have gotten to the top at all on a wet day, even in the Commonwealth Department of Works truck which duly met our bus and took us on up the very very steep dirt road. The C.D.W. is improving the road to the top and our conveyance was a temporarily empty gravel truck, very thoughtfully lined with an old army blanket. As Len Robinson, our Australian bird leader, pointed out, this was all courtesy of the Australian taxpayers, but I'm sure they in turn are collecting from us, many times over.

When we reached the top the reason for the road became clear. Instead of misty moss-hung trees, here was a manicured level lawn, a helicopter pad, a concrete block building labeled "Kaindi Kuntry Klub", and two huge towers. All of this is part of a telephone repeater station and you can add another entry to the previous list of reasons for road building in primitive countries. To gold, church, military, forestry and farming, add communications and leap into the last half of the twentieth century.

Below the top the landscape was as we had expected — huge trees carrying incredible loads of moss, epiphytes, ferns and lianas. It's hard to visualize how a root system strong enough to carry the load can develop in such rocky soil. However, many of the trees have great buttress roots and the top rock layer is sandstone, which I suppose is porous enough to hold both roots and water. One curious point about much of the vegetation is that the new leaves of the undergrowth (except the mosses) seem to start out bright red. It is especially startling to see scarlet fern fronds. I've always read about the heaths on high mountains (laurel, blueberry and rhododendrons are all heaths) and many of the shrubs obviously belonged to this family. Mistletoe with brilliant red berries grew on many of the trees. This was the place to look for birds.

I won't go into all the bird details except to say that we saw another species of bird of paradise, one called appropriately a sickle-bill, and a tiny scuttling bird called a mid-mountain mouse-babbler, again a totally descriptive name. The latter was on my list of most wanted birds because of the crazy name and he is a crazy bird. We saw two of them and were sure that they were either injured or giving us the broken-wing act, but apparently they always totter along in twitchy jerks, not flying except to flutter desperately over a log.

The dozen die-hards of the group walked the four miles down from the top to where our bus was parked. Aside from the fascination of the birds and the vegetation, and the spectacular vistas that opened up with each turn of the road, there was the interest of seeing the people by the way. For example, there were the women in a tiny garden patch, cutting back the yam plants and then digging for the tubers with digging sticks. I don't know whether they can replant them or not. And on a far perpendicular slope there were men carrying on a two-man operation, digging also into the mountainside, then panning the loose rock for gold. We passed other men carrying slingshots or bows and arrows; unhappily, they are out to shoot the spectacular birds for their plumes. I asked Len about protection laws. Only the indigenous people are supposed to be permitted to shoot birds of paradise, and then only with traditional methods. Guns are entirely prohibited in some areas, but the laws are hard to enforce, and the plumaged males are scarce. No "European" may possess a skin, although we were offered them for sale several times.

4 P.M., Lae, New Guinea, August 12

We are back here to stay overnight before flying up to the highlands tomorrow. Before we change the scene entirely here are some more tidbits from the Bulolo-Wau circuit. One morning some one brought in a beautiful green tree snake which sat for its portrait in Orville Crowder's hands, although it was a somewhat reluctant model. We wanted to take him along to release him in a jungle area by the road, but this plan was not a happy one for the captor.

He will toss him into the stew pot! Meat is where you find it, and the snake will make a fine Saturday night feast. There are very few mammals to hunt in New Guinea. Except for one tree-climbing rat in the wild, the only mammals we've seen have been the tree kangaroos and possums, moving sluggishly around their cramped cages at the hotels.

We stopped for pictures at a native village along the road that was having market day. There were pitiful little stalls whose principal offerings were bananas, coconuts, betel nuts, and packages of mustard pods or stems which they mix with the betel nut to give it more kick. While we were there a truckload of men, going up to the country after their week's work in Lae, stopped and bought out the whole betel nut supply. In one case a man traded a mustard bundle for a betel bundle. Gari explained that the mustard is not grown locally; so they must get it by barter. All offerings are set up in little piles and each pile costs ten cents, one coin. Len says that this one coin is all they will take (or understand). If you want two piles you must pay with two ten-cent pieces, not one twenty-cent coin. A neat system for an illiterate people. As you may remember, we are on Australian money - so ten cents is nearer twelve cents for us.

We had an early bird trip to a forest area near here and finally saw three male Raggiano birds of paradise in full display plumage. They develop these plumes at five years, and retain them only for the breeding season. Breathtaking clouds of apricot colored feathers, a really terrific sight!

1 P.M., August 14, Kundiawa, N.G.

Here in the valley of the Chimbu River we are finally in the New Guinea one reads about in the pages of the National Geographic. Most of the women wear pulpuls, string aprons of twisted fibers and nothing much else except some bracelets and a bilum bag carried by a strap across the forehead. The men's clothing consists basically of armbands and arsegras. That rather inelegant word refers to bunches of leaves attached around the waist with a band of woven fibers. The band itself is often ornamented with green beetles or cowrie shells. We are definitely in the back country, country that was totally unknown until the same Michael Leahy who was responsible for the development of the Bulolo-Wau area, got itchy feet again and in the late thirties followed goldbearing streams up into these forbidding mountains. Once the prospectors got past the mountain barrier they were startled to discover fertile valleys supporting a large gardening population who had had no previous contact with the outside world. It turns out that there is very little gold in the central highlands, which is just as well for the natives.

This morning we drove along the road back toward Goroka, the impossible-looking road we had observed from the air, snaking its way through the mountains. When we flew in we were often below the tops of limestone cliffs. The tallest peak, Mt. Wilhelm, is nearly 15,000 feet. It had been fascinating to see the patchwork of villages, gardens and footpaths along every ridge, and now we had an opportunity to see them at close range. We were told that the villages were always built on the ridges for several reasons: fewer mosquitos and other insects than in the valleys, less danger of landslides, but, above all, where there is warfare over land ownership, as there is even today, there is less possibility of surprise attack when one occupies high ground. I picked up a local newspaper and a couple of articles dealt with clashes about land very close by.

The gardens, mostly yams, taro, and some cane and fruit, make very interesting patterns. They are divided into pocket handkerchief squares, very neatly planted, with deep drainage ditches between them. The women work them and the guide book says that in some places the slope is so steep that they have to rope themselves to fence posts to keep from falling down hill. The fences make fine use of old tin cans. They are constructed by driving pairs of sticks, slanted towards each other, into the ground. The sticks are held in place by slipping the cans over the ends of the two sticks. Beer bottles are also recycled by being set into the ground upside down as garden edging.

One large village we saw, the village of Womai, was preparing for a pig kill and singsing in a couple of weeks. Apparently this is the season for it in this area and village after village must put on such a feast. Womai was to have five hundred pigs. The festivities seem to be related to the dry season and ceremonies to bring rain. They build a temporary longhouse near the pigroasting pit for visitors to occupy. To us it would seem foolish to have a meatless and protein-deficient diet all year and then gorge on pig for a few days. However, like cattle in parts of Africa, pigs are far more than just meat. They are wealth, prestige and honor, and the center of festivities in an otherwise very circumscribed life.

The houses are quite handsome, made of cane or palm straw woven into intricate patterns. The roofs are thatch, of palm leaves or the long kunai grass which grows everywhere once the forest is burned off. There are usually projecting tufts like lightning rods on the roof peaks to keep away evil spirits. The villages often have a long communal house for sleeping quarters for the men and initiated boys. There's no furniture, just some straw on the dirt floor and firepits for warmth during the cold mountain nights. The women and small children live in their individual houses around the men's house.

In the afternoon we went to another village of the Chimbu people who were preparing to dance at a singsing in a neighboring village tonight. What we saw was essentially a dress rehearsal. I have seen more interesting dancing in other countries, but never such costumes. Each man's was different, limited only by his imagination or his good fortune in being able to secure the components through inheritance, barter or his own hunting skill. Basically the costumes consist of arsegras of freshly gathered leaves, an apron in front made of dyed and beaten grass fiber interwoven with bits of possum fur, bunches of shells and bones also attached at the waist to the woven grass belt, necklaces of lip shell and cowrie; and fantastic flower and feather headdresses, representing many birds we'll never see otherwise. Oh yes, bunches of grass or feathers through the nose or ears.

The dancing was done with much brandishing of spears and monotonous chanting. When it was over Don played it back to them on his tape recorder and they were enthralled. The head man then made a speech about how glad he was to see us (in Chimbu which our guide translated) and waited eagerly to hear himself. They had a fine present for Don which they had collected without knowing he was an entomologist - an enormous ferocious looking walking-stick with spotted wings, about ten inches long. I was offered a cigarette! I was watching one of the dancers roll his own out of newspaper and what looked like bits of leaves. He made gestures to indicate what it was and held it out to me. At the risk of rudeness I declined!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### AN INVITATION TO SPRING BIRDING



Birders, both beginners and old timers, will have many opportunities to enjoy their favorite outdoor sport this spring. As in the past, Martin Schweig will lead birders in Forest Park. Meeting time is 7:30 A.M. Place, behind the Art Museum. Dates, the last two Sundays in April and the first two in May.

Tony McColl will be the leader for walks in Shaw's Garden on Saturdays, April 28 and May 5. The meeting place will be the Tower Grove entrance gate, the time 8:00 A.M. These walks will be of special interest to beginners.

Probably the most exciting birding of the year occurs at the time of the annual spring census. This year the date will be Saturday, May 5. Everyone is welcome to participate by making observations in his own favorite area within the St. Louis 50-mile radius.

For further information contact Earl Comfort, 630 West Essex, Kirkwood, or Earl Hath, phone 965-8642. Report totals to Mr. Hath at the end of the day.



A disturbing report comes from the Aransas Wildlife Refuge in Texas where only 51 whooping cranes had been counted by January first. 50 cranes left the refuge last April for the long flight back to the nesting grounds in Canada's Northwest Territory. Counts made there last summer showed a record 16 active nests, but only 5 young birds actually survived to fly to Texas. This indicates that there was an actual loss of 13 older birds, most of which were adolescent pre-breeding birds. What has happened to them is a mystery, but it is believed that they spend the summer in a different area from the breeders - and area as yet undetermined.

\* \* \* \* \*

A letter from David S. Hegman, Sr., 710 East D. St., Belleville, Ill. 62221, tells of his idea for thwarting the starlings and house sparrows that try to usurp martin houses. Space doesn't permit publication of full details, but briefly he recommends wrapping a four inch strip of muslin around the house so as to cover the holes. The end is fastened with a strip of self-adhering Velcro with a long piece of strong nylon string attached. When the martins arrive a good tug on the string will remove the covering from the holes - and if the martins are really alert, they, and not the interlopers, will have the home sites. For specific details contact Mr. Hegman. Unfortunately the arrival of your bulletin and your martins has probably coincided, but try it next year!

# calendar .....



March 17, Saturday and 25, Sunday, 8:00 A.M. ST. LOUIS AUDUBON NATURE WALKS at Shaw's Garden Arboretum, Gray Summit, Missouri. Meet at main gate. Arrangements can be made to meet at Heritage House, Lindbergh and 66. Call Earl Hath, 965-8642. Also April 21 and 29, May 19 and 27.

March 20, Tuesday, 8:00 P.M. "The Mouse Trap", Loretto-Hilton Theatre, 130 Edgar Road, Webster Groves. Coalition for the Environment benefit performance. See p. 2

March 31, Saturday, 8:30 A.M. PERE MARQUETTE/SWAN LAKE BIRDING. Meet at Alton Dam, Missouri side.

April 13, Friday, 8:15 P.M. AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM: FABULOUS AFRICA, Edgar T. Jones, Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road.

April 14, Saturday, 8:00 A.M., BUSCH BIRDING, Meet at Headquarters Lake. Also May 12.

April 22 and 29, Sundays, 7:30 A.M. FOREST PARK BIRD WALKS, Meet behind Art Museum. Also May 6 and 13.

April 26, Thursday, COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL MEETING, Luna Leopold, speaker. Details later.

April 28, Saturday, 8:00 A.M., SHAW'S GARDEN BIRD WALK, Meet at Tower Grove entrance. Also May 5.

May 5, Saturday - SPRING CENSUS. See article p. 1.

May 20, Sunday, SPRING PICNIC, Pickering's Sunny Ranch - From 10 A.M.

May 22, Tuesday, FIRST ANNUAL AUDUBON DINNER, Leonard Hall, speaker. Exact time and place to be announced later.

There will be birding trips each Wednesday and Thursday sponsored by the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. For information on the Wednesday trips call Sallie Phillips, 821-2216 or Dot Reger, 822-2058. For the Thursday trips call Helen Bowman, 531-1748 or Phoebe Snet-singer, 968-3442.

BOTANY TRIPS FOR SPRING 1973 sponsored by the Webster Groves Nature Study Society - April 8--St. Francois State Park; April 14-15--Camping trip to Silver Mines; April 29--Washington State Park; May 6--Rockwoods Reservation; May 12-13--Camping trip to Hawn Park & Pickle Spring; May 19--Tucker Prairie & Graham Cave State Park; May 26--Gray Summit. For further information call Art Christ, 352-2750

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS See pp. 8 & 9

#### Return Address:

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